

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

--34. (new) An ultrasound contrast agent including a biocompatible colloidal dispersion for imaging an animal having a body temperature T, comprising a dispersed phase, an amphiphile and an aqueous continuous phase, said dispersed phase including a perfluorocarbon chemical with a sufficiently high vapor pressure that at least a portion of said perfluorocarbon is a gas at the temperature T, wherein said dispersed phase and its gaseous content are present in amounts adequate to provide ultrasound contrast enhancement due to the aqueous-gas interface when said agent is administered to said animal, and wherein said perfluorocarbon has a vapor pressure of above about 20 Torr at ambient temperature or a boiling point below about 100°C and is at least a C6 compound.

35. (new) An ultrasound contrast agent as set forth in claim 34, wherein said perfluorocarbon is perfluorohexane or perfluorooctane.

36. (new) Contrast media for ultrasound imaging comprising gaseous perfluorohexane.

37. (new) Contrast media according to claim 36 comprising gaseous microbubbles comprising perfluorohexane.

38. (new) Contrast media according to claim 37 wherein the microbubbles are free gas microbubbles.

39. (new) Contrast media according to claim 36 further comprising an amphiphilic material.

40. (new) Contrast media according to claim 39 wherein the amphiphilic material comprises a surfactant.

41. (new) Contrast media according to claim 40 wherein the surfactant comprises a fluorine-containing surfactant.--